

Regular Session, 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Army Sergeant Willard T. Partridge.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Sergeant Willard T. Partridge upon his death in ground combat actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom in this nation's war on terrorism.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge was born in Ferriday, Louisiana, and grew to manhood in the sister city of Natchez, Mississippi, where he graduated in 1988 from South Natchez High School after helping the school's baseball team advance to the regional and state championships with his extraordinary athletic talents and pitching abilities; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge later graduated from the Copiah-Lincoln Community College where he trained in the craft of refrigeration and welding and worked in the industry for many years as he provided for his dear wife, Rhonda, and his two daughters, Kelsee and Kymberlee; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge, after a career in his trained fields of expertise, pursued a lifelong dream of serving his country in the armed services and enlisted in the United States Army to become a member of the military police; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge successfully completed the highly rigorous training requirements of becoming a member of the United States Army Military Police and was

1 subsequently assigned to the 170th Military Police Company, 504th Military Police  
2 Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade based in Fort Lewis, Washington; and

3 WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge excelled in the ranks, his leadership qualities  
4 resulting in being promoted to a command role in his unit where his commitment and  
5 discipline helped him inspire his troops to totally dedicate themselves to accomplishing the  
6 mission they would soon face in the dangerous, dusty, sunbaked streets of Baghdad, Iraq;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge's maturity and bearing deeply influenced his men  
9 and gave them the confidence to follow his lead as they patrolled areas where lawlessness  
10 was the rule and not the exception; and

11 WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge had just reached his thirty-fifth birthday as he and  
12 his men were conducting a mounted patrol near Baghdad on August 20, 2005, when they  
13 were engaged by enemy forces and Sergeant Partridge was mortally wounded by an  
14 improvised explosive device; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge's brave and gallant service was acknowledged by the  
16 army with the posthumous award of the Bronze Star Medal for valor in combat and the  
17 Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge continues to serve this nation as a shining symbol  
19 of the cost of freedom and in the truest sense, proves once more that freedom is never free,  
20 but is paid for by our armed forces who must sometimes fight to maintain it.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
22 does hereby extend its deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the family of United  
23 States Army Sergeant Willard T. Partridge for their sacrifice and loss in America's War on  
24 Terror.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
26 family of Sergeant Partridge.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

Marionneaux

SR No. 26

Expresses condolences of the Louisiana Senate to the family of U.S. Army Sergeant Willard T. Partridge upon his death in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom.